

# PEOPLE YOU CAN COUNT ON

## Challenge

At 2:00 a.m., November 6, 2005, an F3 tornado crashed through Vanderburgh and Warrick counties in southern Indiana. Hundreds of buildings were damaged or destroyed, and 24 people lost their lives.

GIS staff from around the state immediately offered assistance to the Evansville GIS Department and the Warrick County Surveyor's Office.

## Action

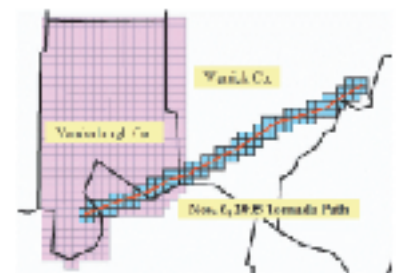
Woolpert, LLP in Indianapolis volunteered the aerial photographs of Vanderburgh County, which they had at their Dayton, Ohio office. Evansville's GIS Project Manager created a GIS layer of the tornado path, and sent it to Woolpert. Their staff immediately began to pull together the photos, and quickly delivered a mosaic of the tiles along the path. Staff at IMAGIS, the Indianapolis GIS consortium, also assisted in correcting technical issues with the files.

Pinnacle Mapping Technologies had the Warrick County photos in their Indianapolis office. Within a day of being contacted, Pinnacle had the Warrick County imagery posted to their FTP site for download by the Surveyor's Office.

The Geospatial Analyst at the Indiana National Guard was also able to provide Evansville with photos taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) showing the tornado damage.

## Results

When the counties needed it most, the Indiana GIS community - public and private organizations alike - displayed remarkable volunteer spirit and corporate citizenship. The before and after photography gave responders a clear overview of the damage, allowing them to coordinate response and recovery efforts more effectively.



*The early morning tornado cut a swath through three counties. Help was provided by organizations around the state to mitigate the damages.*